

**The Rejection of Claims 1 - 8 Under  
35 USC §103(a) Has Been Overcome**

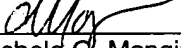
Claims 1 - 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over McAtee in view of Towelettes or Zighelboim. Applicants respectfully disagree for the reasons that follow.

The Towelettes were announced to the trade in October, 1999 by Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc. The above-referenced application, which was filed on October 4, 1999, has been assigned to Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc. as reflected in the assignment recorded in the Patent Office on 6 November 2000. Applicants respectfully submit that the Towelette reference cannot be considered as a prior art reference with respect to the above-referenced application because: 1) it is owned by the assignee of the above-referenced application; 2) it was publicly announced by the assignee of the above-referenced application; and 3) the subject matter of the above-referenced application was filed in the Patent Office either before the date on which the Towelette was publicly announced to the trade or within one (1) year thereof. Therefore, because the rejections set forth in the Office Action rely on the Towelette reference in combination with either McAtee and Zighelboim, respectively, and because the Towelette reference cannot properly be considered as a prior art reference with respect to the above-referenced application, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 - 8 under 35 USC §103(a) has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

It is submitted that the foregoing remarks place the case in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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